Allen County Community Corrections

Reentry Court Program Impact Evaluation

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Abstract

This report is an analysis of the Allen County Community Corrections (ACCC) reentry program from the inception of the program in 2001 through 2008. This report focuses on two general categories: program completion by offenders and recidivism. The program completion analysis highlights the proportion of offenders who successfully completed the program, as well as the various proportions of the categories for non-completion. The recidivism analysis includes rearrest rates, length of time after an offender started the ACCC reentry program before rearrest (for offenders who were rearrested on the program), and evaluations of the validity of mental health measures for predicting rearrest. The overarching finding is that offenders who complete the reentry program have a much lower rate of recidivism than would otherwise be expected. Further more, even offenders who had limited exposure to the reentry program (i.e., offenders who did not complete the program) demonstrated significantly lower rates of rearrest.

Introduction

The efficacy of reentry programs is of vital importance for determining the value these programs have for reducing crime, reintegrating offenders, and reducing the costs of corrections. Indiana currently has around 28,000 adult offenders incarcerated. Nearly all of these offenders will be released back into the communities from which they came. National statistical analysis indicates that we can expect about seventy percent of these offenders to be rearrested. This high rate of recidivism not only adds millions of dollars to the state and local budgets for policing, adjudication, and corrections, but also means that offenders continue to pose a high risk to communities. Resolving this problem involves two fundamental goals:

1. Making communities safer.
2. Finding ways to effectively reduce the costs of corrections.

Both of these goals may be addressed through the use of reentry programs. The relative costs associated with reentry are much lower than the costs of incarceration in a state prison. The cost of keeping an offender incarcerated in a state prison in Indiana is around $52.61 a day, which is $19,202.65 annually. The cost of keeping DOC offenders in a local jail is around $35 a day, which is $12,775 annually. The cost of keeping an offender in a work release facility or in the ACCC reentry program is around $25 per day, or $9,125 (less than half the cost of incarceration in a state prison). The bottom line is that keeping offenders in prison is almost twice as expensive as a work release facility or

a reentry program. Keeping offenders in local jails is about two-thirds the cost of prison incarceration. However, clearly costs are not the only factor when considering public policy alternatives.

A major component of corrections is increasing the safety of communities. The simplest way to deter illegal behavior is by isolating offenders and supervising them closely. Incarceration in a prison accomplishes these goals. However, eventually a gross majority of offenders are released. Once offenders are released, most of them will be rearrested within a few years and around 40% of offenders released in Indiana will return to IDOC custody. Reentry programs aim to reduce this problem by reintegrating offenders and providing them with opportunities to address their needs.

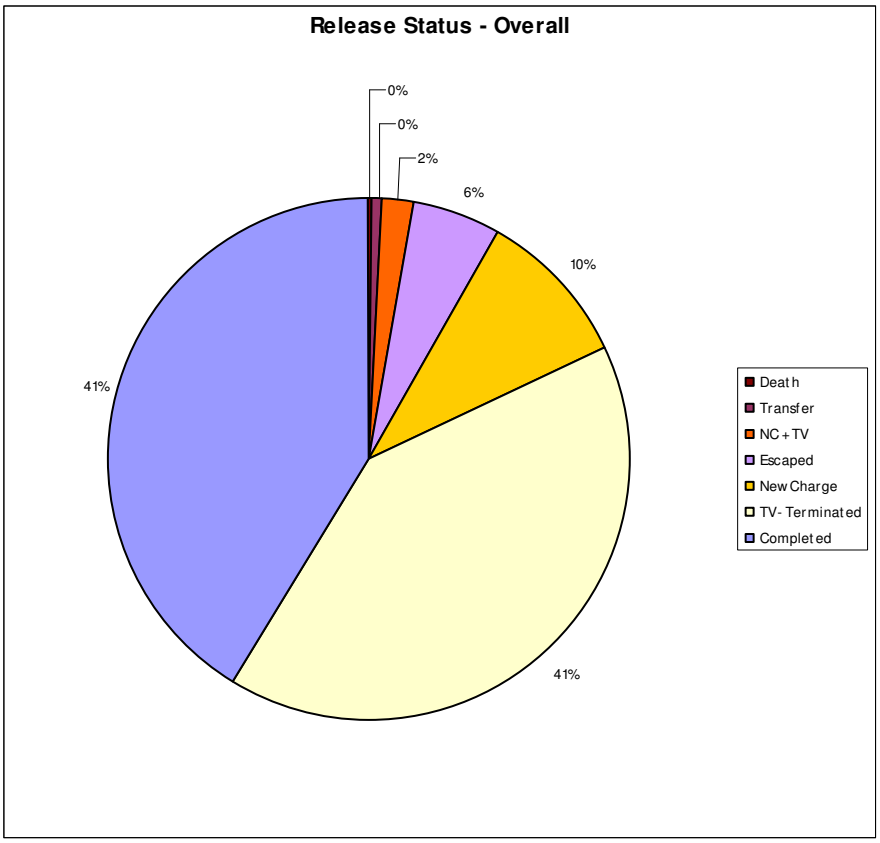
This report analyzes the extant data to determine whether or not the ACCC reentry program reduces the likelihood of offender recidivism. The analysis is divided into five sections. First, I review the release status by time period across the history of the ACCC reentry program. Second, I present the rearrest rates for offenders who completed the reentry program, as well as those offenders who participated in the program, but did not complete the program. Third, I contrast actual rates of rearrest with expected rates of rearrest. Fourth, I present the number of days until rearrest after starting the reentry program (for offenders who were rearrested). Finally, I review the validity of mental health measures for predicting rearrest. The report closes with a conclusion that reviews the findings and makes recommendations for future research.

Part I. Program Efficacy: Release Status

1. The first part of the reentry court program impact evaluation is an analysis of the various outcomes for offenders in terms of program completion. The distribution of outcomes can be seen below in a series of charts that illustrate the most common categories of release from the program. The categories include: successful completion, termination from the program because of technical violations (coded as TV-Terminated), terminated because of a new charge, terminated because of escape, terminated because of new charges and technical violations, terminated because of transfer, or terminated because of death.

   Chart 1 presents the distribution of the release statuses for all offenders who were released from the inception of the program in July 2001 through December of 2008. This chart serves as a point of comparison for truncated periods within this timeline. The two most common statuses in the overall distribution are successful completion (41%) and termination because of technical violations (41%). The next largest outcome is termination because of a new charge (10%).

Chart 1. Overall Release Status: All Offenders July 2001-December 2008



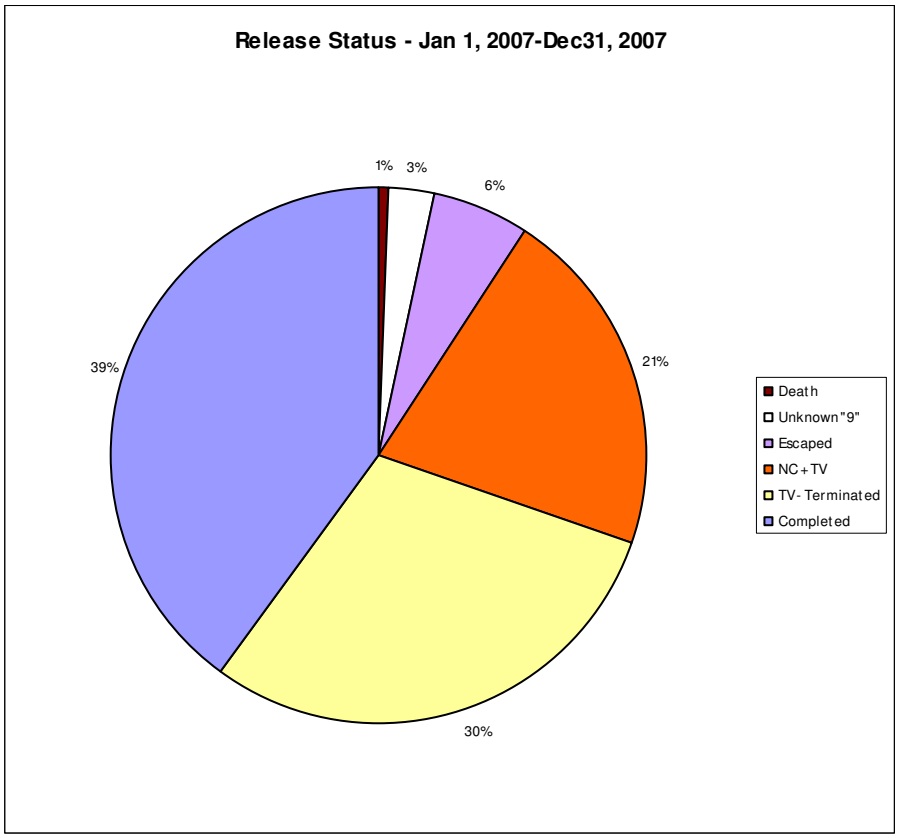
A. Release Status: January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007.

Chart 2 presents the distribution of release statuses for offenders who were began the program between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. This period of time is unique in the history of Allen County Community Corrections because the statute dictating the release of offenders was interpreted in such a way that virtually all prisoners leaving Indiana Department of Corrections custody and returning to Allen County entered the reentry program. During this period of time some offenders participated involuntarily, which stands in contrast to other periods.

The distribution of release statuses is starkly different from the overall distribution presented in Chart 1. The two most common outcomes are successful completion (39%) and termination because of a technical violation (30%). The next most common category is termination because of new charges and technical violations (21%). This is increase is more than ten times the proportion for this category in the overall distribution. During this time period no terminations were made for a new charge alone (which made up 10% in Chart 1). However, even the combined total of the percent of terminations due to new arrests and the percent of terminations due to new arrests and technical violations in Chart 1, a sum of 12%, is

far below the percent of terminations because of new charges and technical violations for this period. This finding indicates that the offenders during this period are qualitatively different from the offenders that are traditionally served by ACCC.

Chart 2. Release Status: All Offenders January 1, 2007-December 2007

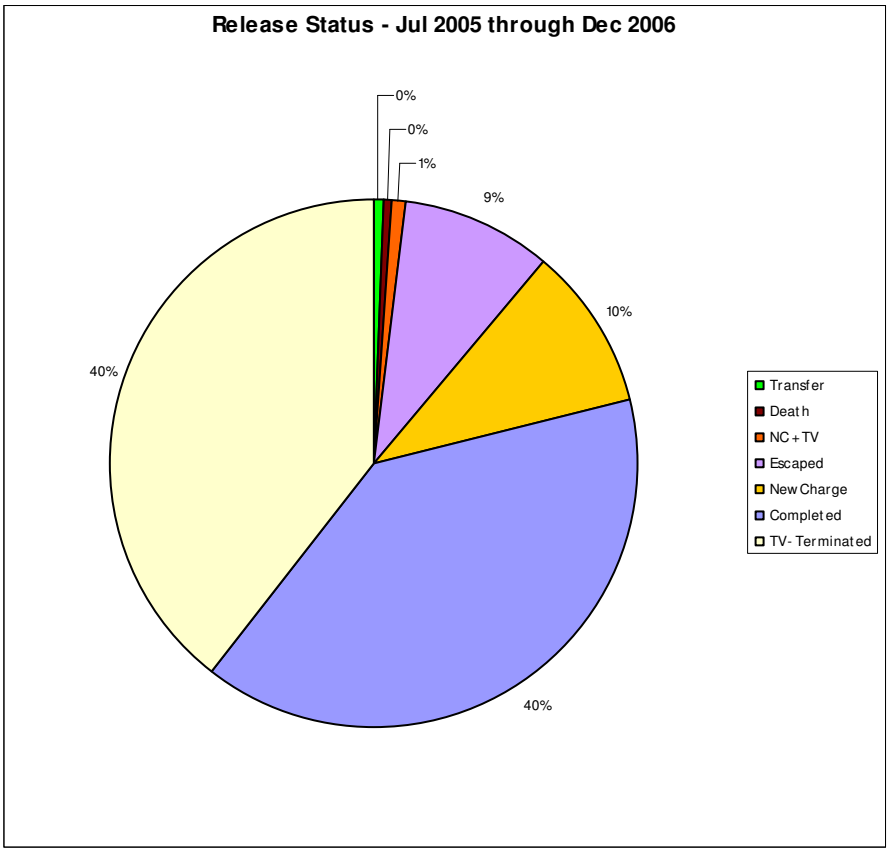


B. Release Status: July 01, 2005 and December 31, 2006.

Chart 3 presents the distribution of release statuses for offenders who entered the reentry program in the 18 month period beginning in July 1, 2005 and ending December 13, 2006.

The distribution of release statuses coincides closely with the overall distribution presented in Chart 1. The two most common outcomes are successful completion (40%) and termination because of a technical violation (40%). The next most common category is termination because of a new charge (10%). Escape is the category that demonstrates the highest degree of change from Chart 1, although the change is slight.

Chart 3. Release Status: All Offenders July 2005-December 2006

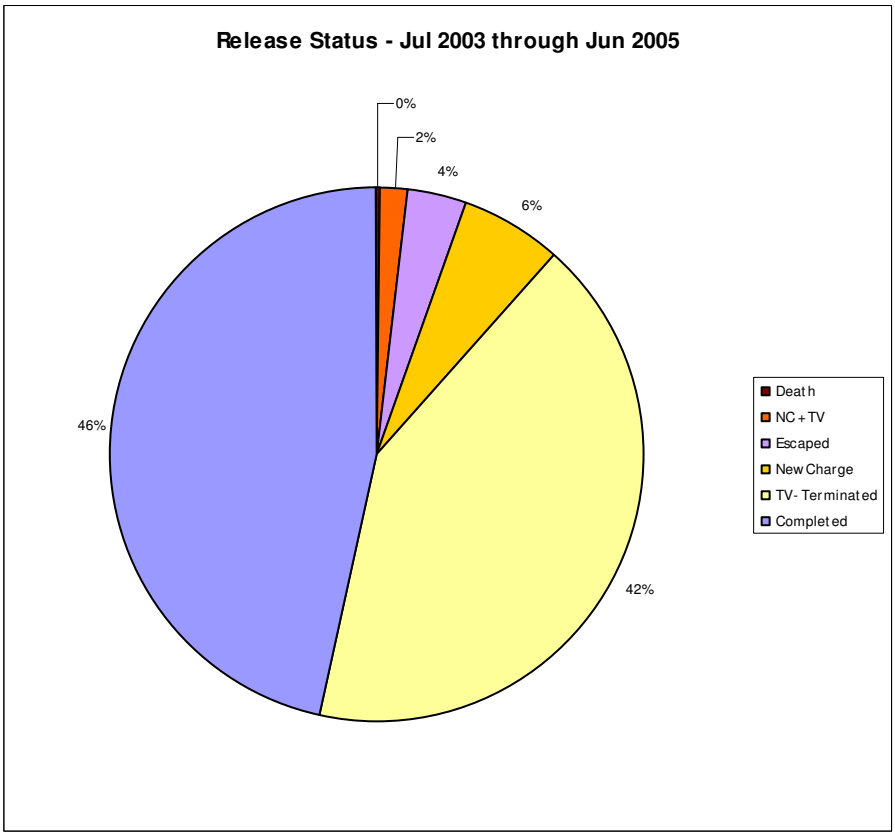


C. Release Status: July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2005.

Chart 4 presents distribution of release statuses for offenders who entered the reentry program between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2005.

The distribution of release statuses is similar to the overall distribution presented in Chart 1. The two most common outcomes are successful completion (40%) and termination because of a technical violation (46%). The successful completion category corresponds to the Chart 1, although the percentage of terminations because of technical violations is greater. Both the percentage of terminations because of new charges and the percentage due to escapes are lower than the overall percentages.

Chart 4. Release Status: All Offenders July 1, 2001-June 30, 2003

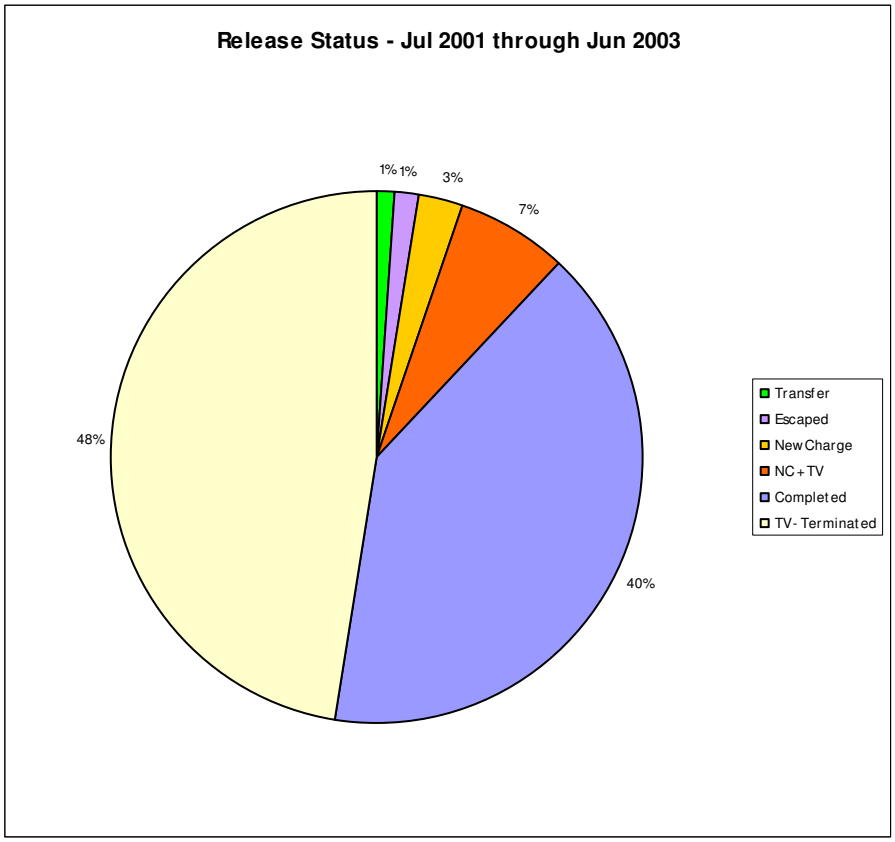


D. Release Status: July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2003.

Chart 5 presents distribution of release statuses for offenders who entered the reentry program between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2003.

The distribution of release statuses is similar to the overall distribution presented in Chart 1. The two most common outcomes are successful completion (40%) and termination because of a technical violation (48%). The successful completion category corresponds to the Chart 1, although the terminations because of technical violations is greater. The number of terminations because of new charges is smaller (7%) and the number of escapes demonstrates the greatest decline (1%).

Chart 5. Release Status: All Offenders July 1, 2001-June 30, 2003



Part II. Recidivism Outcome Evaluation.

1. This section of the evaluation examines recidivism rates based on a new arrest. The data are divided into two time periods. The first is for offenders who were arrested between 07/01/01 and 06/30/05. The second is for offenders who were arrested between 07/01/05 and 06/30/07. The data are divided for each of these time periods by two categories: those who successfully completed the reentry program, and those that were terminated prior to completion of the program.

   a. Rearrest rates for the period between 07/01/01 and 06/30/05.

   Total Population for this period: N=488

   Rearrest rate for offenders who successfully completed the reentry program:

   Number of Successful Offenders: 219
   Number of Successful Offenders Arrested Post Program: 90
   Rate of Arrests: 43.27 per 100 Offenders

Rearrest rate for offenders who were terminated from the reentry program prior to completion of the program:

Number of Terminated Offenders: 268
Number of Terminated Offenders Arrested Post Program: 135
Rate of Arrest: 50.19 per 100 Offenders

The rearrest rates for offenders who successfully completed the reentry program is far below an expected rate of 67.5%[1]. This finding indicates that the treatment provided in the reentry program has a significant effect on reducing overall recidivism of offenders. Furthermore the magnitude of the decrease is substantial, which indicates that the program has a strong effect on offender likelihood to reoffend.

The rearrest rates for offenders who were terminated from the reentry program prior to completion of the program was also far below an expected rate of 67.5%. This indicates that some exposure to the reentry program can have a substantial effect on recidivism, even if an offender fails to successfully complete the program.

b. Rearrest rates for the period between 07/01/05 and 06/30/07.

Total Population for this period: N=289

Rearrest rate for offenders who successfully completed the reentry program:

Number of Successful Offenders: 124
Number of Successful Offenders Arrested Post Program: 15
Rate of Arrest: 12 per 100 Offenders

Rearrest rate for offenders who were terminated from the reentry program prior to completion of the program:

Number of Terminated Offenders: 167
Number of Terminated Offenders Arrested Post Program: 38
Rate of Arrest: 22.61 per 100 Offenders

The rates for both offenders who successfully completed the reentry program and those who were terminated are both low. Offenders who successfully completed the reentry program had a much lower rate than those who were terminated, which corresponds to the findings from the first period. However, not all of the offenders in this sample had three years of data following their entry into the reentry program, or after completion of the program, therefore the

[1] Drawn from BJS research (2002). This study is explained below.

rates of arrests found cannot be compared to expected rates for three-year recidivism.

Part III. Expected Rates of Recidivism and Actual Rates of Recidivism.

This section provides data that compares expected rate of recidivism and actual rates of recidivism among four categories including: violent offenses, property offenses, drug offenses, and public order offenses. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (2002) study on recidivism is the best available data on rearrest for offenders in the U.S. and provides the most frequently cited information on expected rates of recidivism. The dataset is based on a large sample of offenders living in geographically diverse areas. However, these data are limited in their generalizability since the offenders were released a time when national crime rates were at a historically high point, followed by years of steady decline.

The criminogenic environment into which offenders are released plays a key role in the likelihood of an offender getting rearrested. The offenders released into Allen County entered a criminogenic environment that has not been adequately documented, so it is unclear precisely what the expected rate of recidivism would be in the absence of the reentry program. However, the BJS study provides some idea of the likelihood of rearrest for the population returning to Allen County. Furthermore, a comparison of offenders who completed the reentry program and those who were terminated prior to completion also provides some indication of the effect of the program.

Chart 6 presents a truncated version of data provided by BJS. Total percents do not sum to 100% because offenders can be arrested multiple times for different offenses. Across the second row the original charges that lead to incarceration are presented. The rows that follow present the charges for which an offender was rearrested. The percentages are the percent of offenders who were originally incarcerated for a given charge (in the orange row), and who were then rearrested for each of the subsequent four categories (in the yellow column).

Chart 6. Baseline: U.S. Prisoners from 15 states who were released from state custody in 1994, who were later rearrested. Total recidivism rate for all offenders = 67.50%.

Percent of U.S. Prisoners Rearrested Within 3 Years of Release Whose Most Serious Offense Was					
Original Charge		Violent Offense	Property Offense	Drug Offense	Public Order Offense
Rearrest Charge					
Violent Offenses		27.50%	21.90%	18.40%	18.50%
Property Offenses		25.50%	46.30%	24%	22.90%
Drug Offenses		22.60%	27.20%	41.20%	22.10%
Public Order Offenses		27.40%	29.20%	27.70%	31.20%

Data Taken From BJS 2002, Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 1994, Table 10.

The two charts below mirror the BJS chart, with the addition of sample size values. Chart 7 presents the response size and percentage of offenders who were rearrested for each of the four categories. The overall recidivism rate (41%) is far below an expected rate of 67.5%. Additionally, the percentage of offenders who were rearrested for the same offense category is substantially lower for each category.

Chart 7. Allen County Community Corrections: Percent of Offenders Who Successfully Completed the Reentry Program Rearrested Within 3 Years. Total recidivism rate for all successful offenders = 41%.

Allen County Community Corrections Percent of Prisoners Rearrested Within 3 Years of Release Whose Most Serious Offense Was					
Original Charge		Violent Offense	Property Offense	Drug Offense	Public Order Offense
N		77	47	101	12
Rearrest Charge					
N		12	5	18	1
Violent Offenses		15.58%	10.64%	17.82%	8.33%
N		6	13	13	4
Property Offenses		7.79%	27.66%	12.87%	33.33%
N		8	7	11	2
Drug Offenses		10.39%	14.89%	10.89%	16.67%
N		13	11	19	1
Public Order Offenses		16.88%	23.40%	18.81%	8.33%

All of the percentages in Chart 7 are lower than those provided by BJS, with the exception of offenders who were incarcerated for a public order offense and then arrested for a property offense. However, because the number offenders incarcerated for a public order offense is small, any offender arrested causes a substantial change in the percentage of arrests. In this case, only four arrests account for one-third of the sample of public order offenders.

The data indicate that offenders who completed the reentry program were significantly less likely to commit another crime, regardless of the category. It should also be noted that a substantial decline can be seen comparing the original charge with the likelihood of committing the same category of crime (e.g., the percent of offenders originally incarcerated for a violent crime who were then rearrested for a violent crime is relatively low). This fact is true for all categories, indicating that focusing on changing the motivations of offenders has a significant effect on future behavior.

Chart 8 presents the data for offenders who were terminated from the reentry program prior to the completion of the program. These data are included both to provide a contrasting population with offenders who successfully completed the program and to provide an idea of the impact of a lower level of exposure to the reentry program.

Chart 8. Allen County Community Corrections: Percent of Offenders Terminated from the Reentry Program Prior to Completion and Rearrested Within 3 Years. Total recidivism rate for all offenders = 52.7%.

Allen County Community Corrections Percent of Prisoners Rearrested Within 3 Years of Release Whose Most Serious Offense Was					
Original Charge		Violent Offense	Property Offense	Drug Offense	Public Order Offense
N		76	73	111	19
Rearrest Charge					
N		20	13	20	4
Violent Offenses		26.32%	17.81%	18.02%	21.05%
N		9	18	25	3
Property Offenses		11.84%	24.66%	22.52%	15.79%
N		13	10	19	2
Drug Offenses		17.11%	13.70%	17.12%	10.53%
N		18	17	18	3
Public Order Offenses		23.68%	23.29%	16.22%	15.79%

All of the percentages in Chart 8 are below the values presented by BJS, except for offenders who were incarcerated for a public order offense and were then rearrested for a violent crime. However, because the number of offenders incarcerated for a public order offense is small, any arrest has a substantial effect on the percentage. In this case, four arrests account for over twenty percent of offenders.

The distribution of percentages in Chart 8 is more similar to Chart 6. Two notable exceptions are the rearrest rates for offenders incarcerated for drug offenses and public order offenses and then rearrested for the same category of crime. Both of these categories are significantly lower than expected. Generally, the data indicate that the offenders who experienced some reentry program have lower rates of recidivism.

One of the chief limitations of this analysis is the fact that no data are available for a control group over the entire time period under investigation. A control group would provide a better comparison than BJS data, which is both dated and based on a population that does not precisely match the ACCC population of offenders. It is highly recommended that data on a control group (such as the population of offenders who refuse to participate in the program) be incorporated into future analysis. This addition would provide substantive evidence of magnitude of the effect of the reentry program. Despite this limitation there is evidence that the reentry program has a substantial effect on recidivism rates.

Part IV. Days to New Arrest

This section provides a review of the number of days offenders were on the reentry program before they were rearrested (for offenders who were rearrested while on the program). Chart 9 presents the distribution of days on the program until arrest for all offenders and over the entire course of the reentry program.

Chart 9. Number of Days on Reentry Program before Arrest for All Offenders.

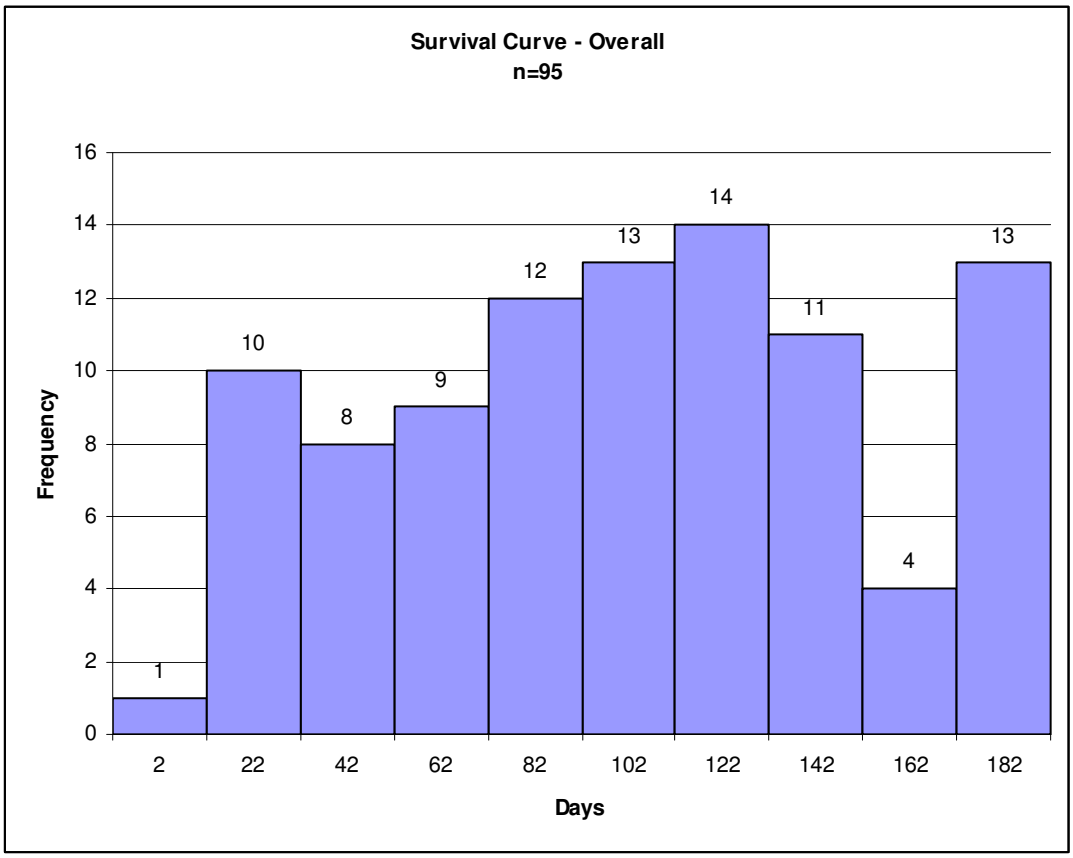


Chart 9 indicates that the likelihood of offenders getting arrested has an early uptick within the first three weeks of the program. The likelihood then inclines steadily over the next 100 days until it reaches the penultimate peak at round 122 days. Following the apex, the likelihood declines rapidly until a final uptick is reached around 182 days.

Chart 10. Number of Days on Reentry Program before Arrest July 2001-June 2003.

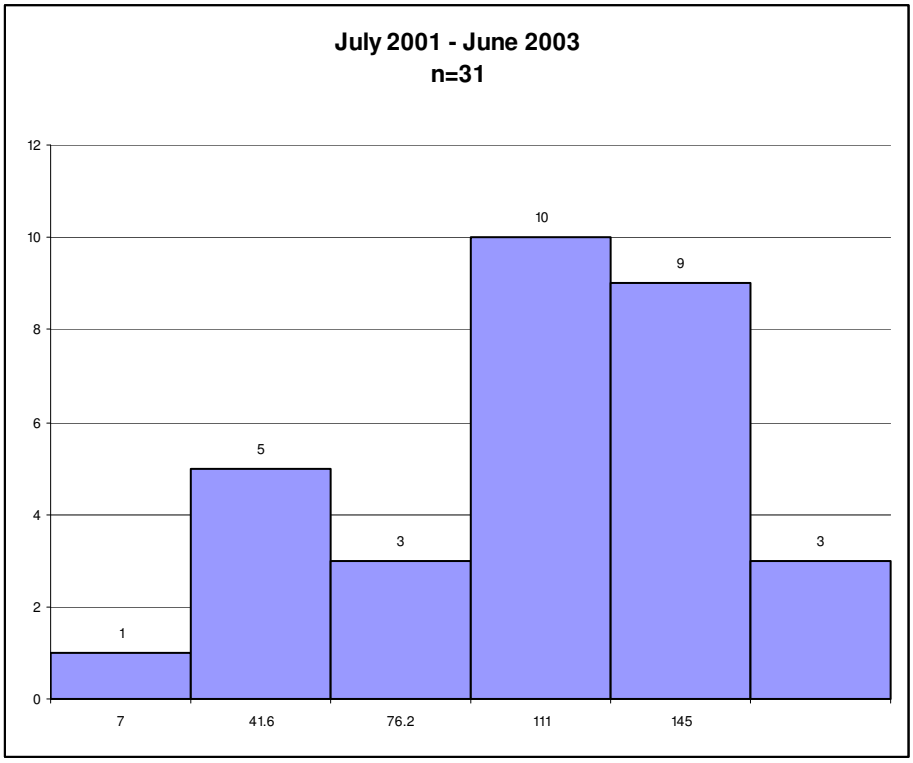


Chart 10 presents the distribution of days on the reentry program before arrest for the period between July 2001 and June 2003. Chart 10 indicates that an early uptick took place around 42 days followed by a slight decline until around 77 days. Between 77 and 145 days a little over 60% of this sample was rearrested. Following this point, only three offenders were rearrested.

Chart 11. Number of Days on Reentry Program before Arrest July 2003-June 2005.

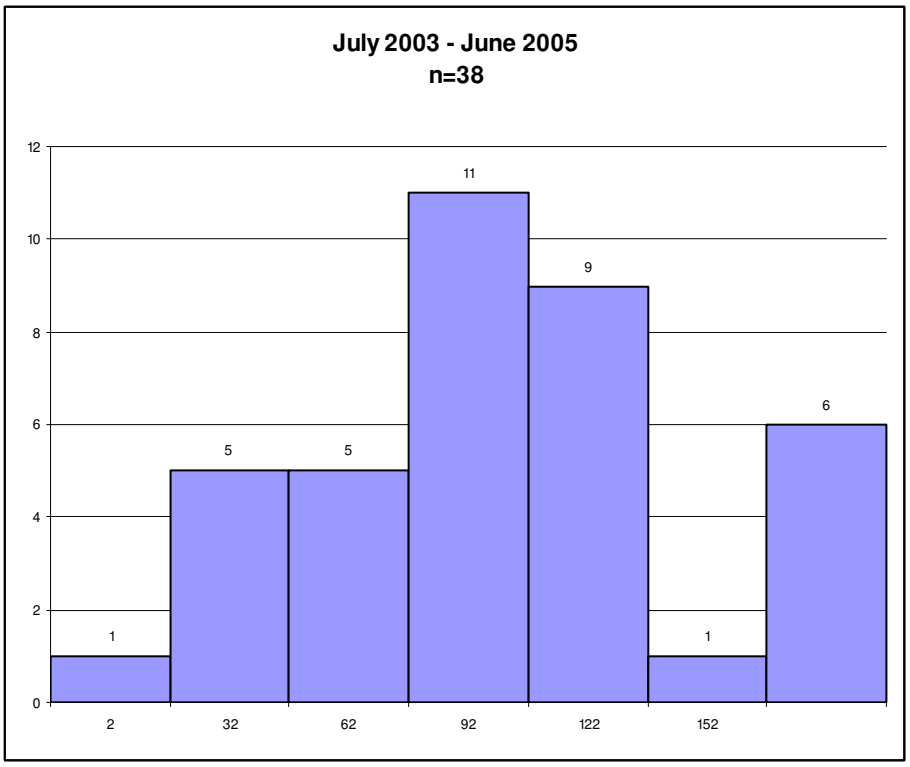


Chart 11 presents the distribution of days on the reentry program before arrest for the period between July 2003 and June 2005. Chart 11 indicates that 11 offenders were rearrested within the first two months. This period was followed by a substantial uptick and between 62 and 122 days over half of this sample were rearrested. This period was followed by a large decline in rearrests. Six offenders were rearrested after 152 days, but these arrests did not cluster.

Chart 12. Number of Days on Reentry Program before Arrest July 2005-December 2006.

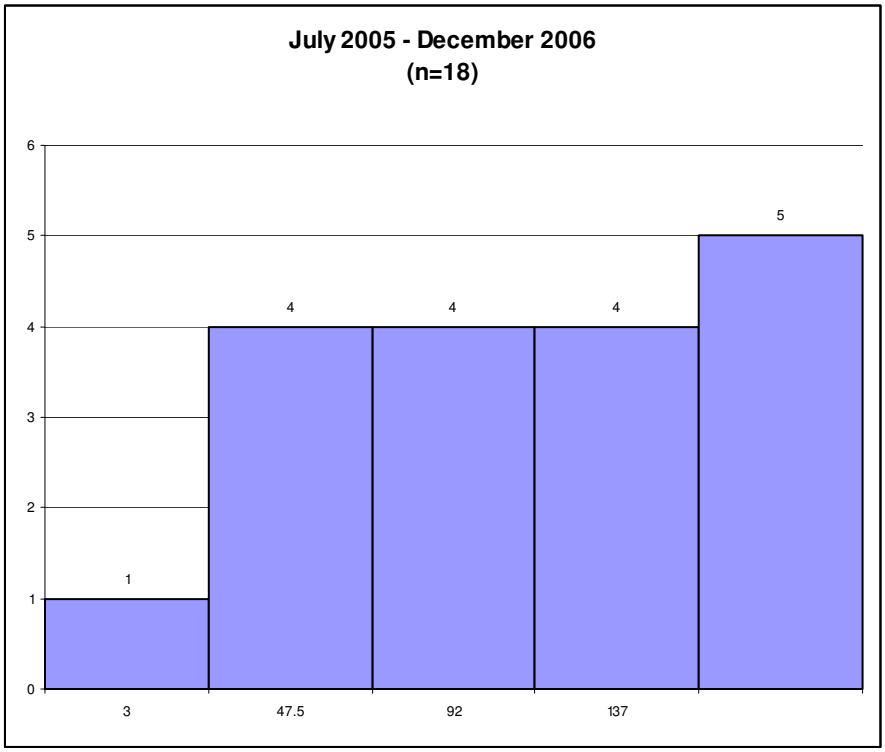


Chart 12 presents the distribution of days on the reentry program before arrest for the period between July 2005 and December 2006. Chart 12 indicates that most of the offenders in this sample were rearrested between 3 and 137 days on the program. Five prisoners were arrested after 137 days, but the arrests did not cluster. The chart indicates that there is not a clear point of incline or decline during this period.

Part V. Mental Health Measures and Rearrest

A. LSI-R Correlation with Rearrest

This section presents data on the predictive value of the LSI-R for rearrest. A correlation is the statistical test used to determine if a relationship between overall LSI-R scores and the likelihood of rearrest exists. The correlation coefficient value is .193 with a one-tailed significance level of <.001. This means that there is a significant positive correlation between the initial overall LSI-R score and the likelihood of rearrest. As the LSI-R score increases, the likelihood of rearrest also increases. However, it should be noted that this is a weak correlation value. The r-squared value is only .037, which means that variation in the LSI-R score only explains about 4% of the variation in rearrest.

In order to determine which specific components of the LSI-R had the greatest predictive validity in terms of rearrest, the correlation between the LSI-R score and each component

was tested. The population of offenders was divided into two groups for this series of tests: those who successfully completed the reentry program and those were terminated prior to completion. The results of the correlations are presented in Chart 13 and Chart 14.

Chart 13. Bivariate Correlations between LSI-R Components and Rearrest for Successful Offenders.

Successful Offenders	
Component	Significance
Criminal History	Not Significant
Companions	Not Significant
Education/Employment	Not Significant
Financial	Not Significant
Family/Marital	Not Significant
Accommodation	Not Significant
Leisure Activity	Not Significant
Alcohol/Drug	Not Significant
Emotional/Personal	Not Significant
Attitudes	Not Significant

The results of the bivariate correlations indicate that variation in the individual components of the LSI-R are not significantly related to variation in the likelihood of rearrest. Multiple logisitic regression was also preformed with models including these variables and the results from the correlations were confirmed.

Chart 14. Bivariate Correlations between LSI-R Components and Rearrest for Terminated Offenders.

Terminated Offenders	
Component	Significance
Criminal History	.25 (2-tailed sig .048)
Companions	Not Significant
Education/Employment	Not Significant
Financial	Not Significant
Family/Marital	Not Significant
Accommodation	Not Significant
Leisure Activity	.25 (2-tailed sig. .043)
Alcohol/Drug	Not Significant
Emotional/Personal	Not Significant
Attitudes	Not Significant

The results of the bivariate correlations indicate that only two components of the LSI-R are significantly related to the likelihood of recidivism: Criminal History and Leisure Activity. The other components are not significantly related to the likelihood of recidivism. However, both criminal history and leisure activity are positively related to the likelihood of rearrest.

B. Hare PCL-R Correlation with Rearrest

This section presents data on the predictive value of the Hare PCL-R for rearrest. A correlation is used to determine if a relationship between Hare PCL-R scores and the likelihood of rearrest exists. The correlation coefficient value is .197 with a one-tailed significance level of <.001. This means that there is a significant positive correlation between the initial overall Hare PCL-R score and the likelihood of rearrest. As the Hare PCL-R score increases, the likelihood of rearrest also increases. However, it should be noted that this is a weak correlation value. The r-squared value is only .039, which means that variation in the Hare PCL-R score only explains less than 4% of the variation in rearrest.

The Hare PCL-R instrument was designed to predict violent behavior so a correlation was run to determine if there is a significant relationship between the variation in Hare PCL-R scores and the likelihood of being arrested for a violent crime. The correlation coefficient value is .528 with a one-tailed significance level of <.001. This means that there is a significant moderate positive correlation between the Hare PCL-R score and the likelihood of rearrest for a violent crime. As the Hare PCL-R score increases, the likelihood of rearrest for a violent crime also increases. The r-squared value is .28 which means that variation in the Hare PCL-R scores explain about 28% of the variation in likelihood of rearrest for a violent crime.

Another way to look at the predictive value of Hare PCL-R scores is to consider the likelihood of recidivism at various levels of Hare PCL-R scoring. This information indicates at what level of scoring is most likely to predict recidivism. Chart 15 provides seven categories of Hare PCL-R ranges, the corresponding number of offenders with scores within each range, the number of offenders who were rearrested, and the percent of recidivists for each group.

The data indicate that generally, as the Hare PCL-R score increases, the likelihood of recidivism increases. However this trend reaches the apex at scores between 26 and 30, and then shows a marked decline for offenders with Hare PCL-R scores greater than 30.

Chart 15. Hare PCL-R Scores and Overall Recidivism for All Offenders

Hare PCL-R Scores and Recidivism			
Hare PCL-R Score	n	Recidivists	Percent Recidivism
Between 1 and 5	11	0	0%
Between 6 and 10	84	12	14%
Between 11 and 15	227	48	21%
Between 16 and 20	245	51	21%
Between 21 and 25	226	66	29%
Between 26 and 30	187	67	36%
Greater than 30	98	23	23%

Chart 16 presents the same format of data as Chart 15, except that Chart 16 provides recidivism data only on arrests for violent crimes. The data indicate that as the Hare PCL-R score increases, the likelihood of rearrest for a violent crime also increases. In this set of data the trend is continuously upward, with a notable uptick after the scores reach 26. Offenders with Hare PCL-R scores above 26 have the highest likelihood of rearrest for a violent crime.

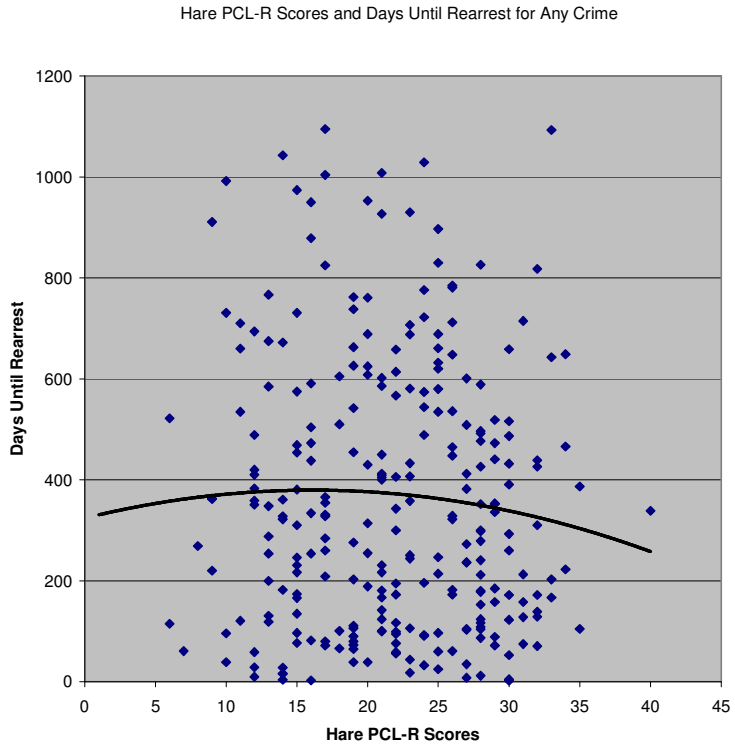
It may seem surprising that the likelihood of rearrest drops off with after a Hare PCL-R Score of 30, since there is a strong positive correlation between these two values. However, it is likely that offenders with Hare PCL-R scores above 30 complete the program at much lower rates because of new arrests, which would mean that they do not have the risk of reoffending after leaving the program. For example, if an offender on the reentry program was arrested for a violent crime while on the program and then incarcerated, they would be less likely to be rearrested within three years. This notion is supported by the fact that offenders with scores above 30 who do complete the program are the most likely to be rearrested for a violent crime (with a rate of nearly one in five).

Chart 16. Hare PCL-R Scores and Violent Recidivism for All Offenders

Hare PCL-R Scores and Violent Recidivism			
Hare PCL-R Score	n	Recidivists	Percent Recidivism
Between 1 and 5	11	0	0%
Between 6 and 10	84	3	4%
Between 11 and 15	227	12	5%
Between 16 and 20	245	18	7%
Between 21 and 25	226	23	10%
Between 26 and 30	187	29	16%
Greater than 30	98	17	17%

Another way to examine the effects of variation in Hare PCL-R scores and rearrest is to consider whether or not a clear pattern exists between the Hare PCL-R score and the number of days until rearrest. Chart 17 provides a scatterplot of Hare PCL-R scores and the number of days before an offender is rearrested for any crime. The black line that curves through the distribution is a fitted polynomial regression line, which indicates the best fit for the least-squared regression line. The fitted line indicates that the expected number of days until rearrest climbs slightly until it reaches the apex around a Hare PCL-R score of 15, after which it declines. This finding indicates that offenders with scores around 15 have the highest number of days before they are rearrested, while the number of days before rearrest decline thereafter, until reaching the low point at the upper end of the Hare PCL-R scoring range.

Chart 17. Hare PCL-R Scores and Days Until Rearrest for Any Crime



C. Substance Abuse/Dependence and Rearrest

This section of the reentry program evaluation tests whether either program completion or recidivism is affected by mental health diagnoses or substance abuse/addiction.

1. Diagnosis of substance abuse/dependence

There is not a significant correlation between a substance abuse or dependence diagnosis (for drugs or alcohol) and the likelihood of reentry program completion. This means that substance abuse or dependence does not provide information that can be used to predict whether or not an offender will complete the reentry program.

There is a significant negative correlation between a substance abuse or dependence diagnosis (for drugs or alcohol) and the likelihood of an offender getting rearrested. The correlation coefficient value is -.112 with a significance level of <.001. This means that an offender who is diagnosed with substance abuse or dependence was less likely to be rearrested than an offender who did not receive this diagnosis.

2. Completion of substance abuse classes

There is a significant positive relationship between the successful completion of substance abuse classes and the likelihood of program completion. The correlation coefficient is value is .266 with a significance level of <.001. This means that offenders who complete substance abuse classes are more likely to also successfully complete the reentry program.

There is a significant positive relationship between the successful completion of substance abuse classes and the likelihood of rearrest. The correlation coefficient is value is .086 with a significance level of .002. Although this finding may seem counterintuitive, the relationship should not be thought of as causal (i.e., there is no theoretical reason to assume that completing substance abuse classes causes rearrest), instead another variable likely influences both variables (e.g., people dependent on drugs are more likely to complete substance abuse classes and also more likely to get rearrested). Another important point is that the coefficient value is small. The r-squared value is only .0074, which means that less than one percent of the variation in rearrest can be explained by variation in the completion of substance abuse classes.

3. Positive test for urine drug screen (UDS).

There is a significant negative correlation between an offender having a positive drug test and the likelihood of an offender completing the program. The correlation coefficient value is -.252 with a significance level of <.001. This means that an offender who has a positive drug test is less likely to complete the reentry program.

There is not a significant correlation between a positive drug test for an offender and the likelihood of rearrest. This means that a positive drug test does not provide information to predict whether or not an offender will be rearrested.

4. Number of positive UDS tests.

There is a significant negative correlation between the number of positive drug tests for an offender and the likelihood of program completion. The correlation coefficient value is -.213 with a significance level of <.001. This means that the more positive drug tests an offender has, the less likely they are to complete the program.

There is not a significant correlation between the number of positive drug tests for an offender and the likelihood of rearrest. This means that the number of positive drug tests does not provide information to predict whether or not an offender will be rearrested.

D. Axis I and Axis II Diagnoses

1. Axis I diagnosis.

There is not a significant correlation between an offender having an Axis I diagnosis and the likelihood of an offender completing the reentry program. This means that the presence of an Axis I diagnosis provides no predictive value for whether or not offenders will complete the program.

There is a significant negative correlation between an offender having an Axis I diagnosis and the likelihood of an offender getting rearrested. The correlation coefficient value is -.112 with a significance level of <.001. This means that an offender who is diagnosed with an Axis I disorder was less likely to be rearrested than an offender who was not diagnosed. However, the effect size is small, indicating a weak relationship. The r-squared value is .01, which means that only about one percent of the variation in rearrest can be explained by variation in diagnosis of an Axis I condition.

The fact that the diagnosis of an Axis I condition is not highly correlated with program completion or rearrest does not necessarily mean that these conditions have no relationship with the outcomes tested. Rather, the findings could indicate that the treatment received in the reentry program effectively increases the likelihood of completing the program and decreases the likelihood of an offender getting rearrested.

2. Axis II diagnosis.

There is not a significant correlation between an offender having an Axis II diagnosis and the likelihood of an offender completing the reentry program. This means that the presence of an Axis II diagnosis provides no predictive value for whether or not offenders will complete the program.

There is a significant negative correlation between an offender having an Axis II diagnosis and the likelihood of an offender getting rearrested. The correlation coefficient value is -.112 with a significance level of <.001. This means that an offender who is diagnosed with an Axis II disorder was less likely to be rearrested than an offender who was not diagnosed. However, the effect size is small, indicating a weak relationship.

The fact that the diagnosis of an Axis II condition is not highly correlated with program completion or rearrest does not necessarily mean that these conditions have no relationship with the outcomes tested. Rather, the findings could indicate that the treatment received in the reentry program effectively increases the likelihood of completing the program and decreases the likelihood of an offender getting rearrested.

Conclusion

The release statuses for different time periods shows some distinct patterns. One of these is that the completion status proportion has declined somewhat since the earliest groups. This is not particularly surprising since the population of offenders increased markedly over time and the initial newness of the program likely influenced both offenders and staff to insure the highest possible completion rates.

The other change that stands out is the large increase in the proportion of offenders who were terminated for technical violations and new charges in the January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 period. This period was one in which the statute governing the voluntary nature of the reentry program was interpreted such that virtually all offenders returning to Allen County were required to participate in the reentry program. This change clearly affected the proportional outcomes of offenders. This finding should be noted since reintroducing a population who refuse to participate is likely to reduce the success rate of the program and increase the seriousness of program violations.

The recidivism outcome was among the most important findings. The data indicate that offenders who complete the reentry program have much lower rates of rearrest that would otherwise be expected. Furthermore, even offenders who had some exposure to the program, but did not complete the program, had lower rates. Another important component to the recidivism analysis is the finding that offenders who were rearrested were less likely to commit the same kind of offense they had originally been charged with and that the new offenses were less likely to be of the most serious nature. This finding supports the idea that the reentry program had direct effects on offenders that both decreased the likelihood of their rearrest and also decreased the seriousness of crimes for which they were rearrested.

The analysis of the number of days on the program before rearrest for offenders rearrested while on the program did not indicate strong abnormal patterns. For the most part the distributions approximate a normal curve. This finding indicates that there are no clear points in the duration of the program where special preventative interventions might be aimed to reduce the likelihood of rearrest.

The mental health instruments tested yielded mixed results. The LSI-R did not have great predictive value in terms of rearrest. The Hare PCL-R score was not very useful for predicting rearrest, but did a better job of predicting violent rearrest. Axis I and Axis II diagnoses, drug abuse/dependence, positive drug tests, and the number of positive drug tests each had little or no predictive value in terms of the likelihood of offenders completing the program or getting arrested after the program.

The major drawback of this analysis is the lack of a control group (a randomly selected group that did not receive reentry program treatment). Although creating a control group for experimental study in a criminal justice setting is highly unlikely and probably undesirable for public safety reasons, the best proxy available should be

utilized. In this case, the best comparison would be offenders who were released from DOC custody and did not receive any treatment. A relative comparison could be provided by a group of offenders who were released and received some other kind of treatment (e.g., parole or probation). A control group of some kind would provide a more clear idea of the independent effect of the reentry program. Furthermore, it would be helpful to control for the external criminogenic conditions into which offenders are released (i.e., the relative likelihood of rearrest should vary according to general local crime rates). Finally, while this analysis focuses on program completion and rearrest, there are many positive variables that could be included in future research that could provide a broader picture of the impact of the reentry program (e.g., money paid in child support, money paid in taxes, family cohesion, successful employment, residential stability).

Overall, the findings of this analysis indicate that the ACCC reentry program has substantially reduced the recidivism rates of returning offenders. Furthermore, even offenders who were rearrested were more likely to be charged with lesser crimes than would be expected. This analysis supports the use of the ACCC reentry program as a wise public policy alternative to prison incarceration and release since the program both drastically reduces the costs of offender supervision and does a better job of offender rehabilitation and reintegration than prison incarceration.